

accepting video capability of a second home device. Each capability is associated with a certain set of data specifications. For example, when a DVCR outputs a video signal, the video signal is broadcast on a particular stream over the home network. The stream number and other information about the signal form part of the DVCR's (outputting home device) data specification message. Therefore, in one embodiment, to execute a session, a first home device (outputting home device) communicates a data specification message to a second home device (accepting home device) via the session manager.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

--9. (New) A method for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;

(b) receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device characteristic data; and

(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of sending said device characteristic data to the client device;

step (b) further includes the steps of the client device receiving said device characteristic data and generating said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and

step (c) further includes the steps of sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said controllable function;
and
displaying said menu on a browser based device.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein:
the step of creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with the server device, and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and
the steps of displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device;
and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the server device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

20. (New) The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting that the server device is currently connected to the network.

21. (New) The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting an active status of the server device currently connected to the network.

22. (New) A home network system comprising:
a server device;

a client device connected to the server device via a home network; and
a control protocol for the server device to communicate with the client device by:
 sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by
said client device;
 receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said
server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device
characteristic data; and
 sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein:
 the server device sends said device characteristic data to the client device;
 the client device receives said device characteristic data and generates said second
request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and
 the server device sending the web page to the client device in response to said second
request signal.

24. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the server device includes at least one
controllable function.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
 a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said
controllable function; and
 a browser displaying said menu on a browser based device.

26. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at
least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

27. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein:
 the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the
device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control

that is associated with the server device, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and
the browser displays said device link page on a browser based device.

28. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

29. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the menu generator generates the device link page by: associating a logical device name with the server device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

31. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

33. (New) The system of claim 22, further including a detector for detecting the active status of devices currently connected to the home network.

34. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the menu generator is a component of the client device.

35. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the browser is a component of the client device.

36. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the client device includes said browser based device.--